WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS
Donate

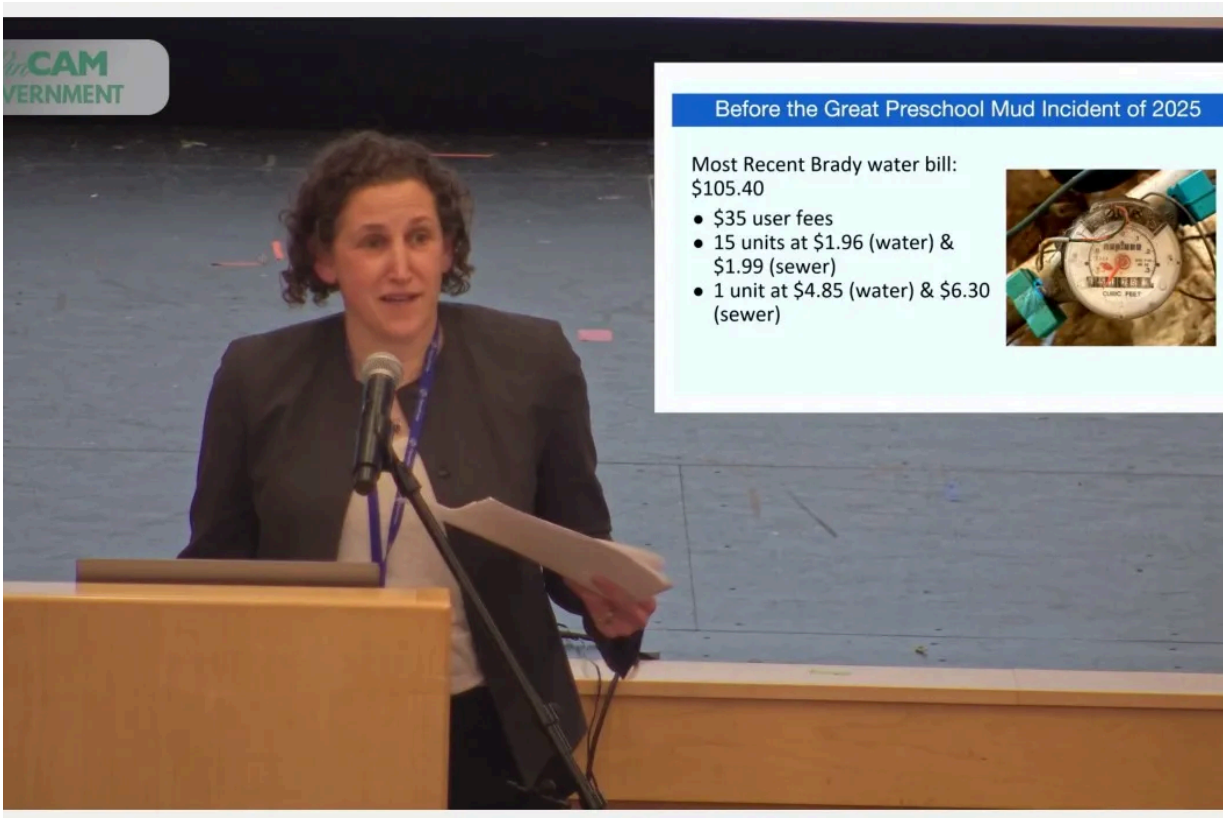
DONATE | NEWS | SPORTS | EVENTS | FEATURES | OPINION | NEWSLETTER | CONTACT | ABOUT

NEWS

Winchester Town Meeting approves 8% water, sewer increase

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

May 2, 2025 . 1:00 PM — 2 min read


Before the Great Preschool Mud Incident of 2025
Most Recent Brady water bill:
$105.40
• $35 user fees
• 15 units at $1.96 (water) & $1.99 (sewer)
• 1 unit at $4.85 (water) & $6.30 (sewer)

Select Board member Anthea Brady shows Town Meeting how much her water bills will be going up, thanks to the passage of Article 21. WINCHESTER NEWS/WINCAM/NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

Winchester residents will be paying more for water, come the su
Town Meeting on Thursday night voted unanimously to approve a

Subscribe

increase in water and sewer rates.

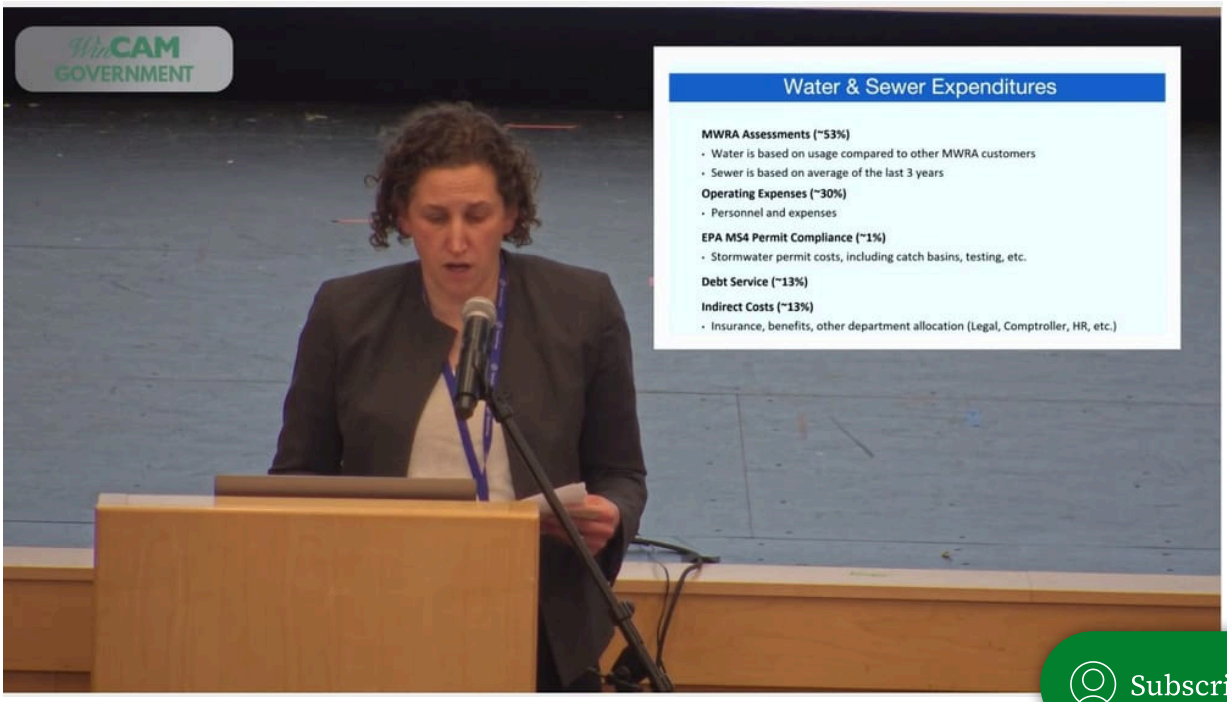
Article 21 called for the increase for fiscal year 2026, which starts July 1.

Select Board member Anthea Brady said water and sewer rates tend to fluctuate, depending on the weather. Some years, like 2024, are wet while others, like 2021, are dry, but it's always unpredictable, she added.

As a result, the town in fiscal year 2025 did a rate study that showed Winchester would need to increase its rates by 9.5% and its per-bill service charge from $30 to $35.

Additionally, projections showed Winchester would need to increase the rates by 9.5% annually from FY26 through fiscal year 2028 and by 6% for fiscal year 2029.

Background material provided to Town Meeting stated revenue for FY25 was projected at $7.7 million. However, that number included about $317,000 of ARPA funds to offset MWRA operating assessments.


WinCAM
GOVERNMENT
Water & Sewer Expenditures
MWRA Assessments (~53%)
• Water is based on usage compared to other MWRA customers
• Sewer is based on average of the last 3 years
Operating Expenses (~30%)
• Personnel and expenses
EPA MS4 Permit Compliance (~1%)
• Stormwater permit costs, including catch basins, testing, etc.
Debt Service (~13%)
Indirect Costs (~13%)
• Insurance, benefits, other department allocation (Legal, Comptroller, HR, etc.)

Select Board member Anthea Brady goes over the water and sewer expenditures for FY26. WINCH
NEWS/WINCAM/NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

Subscribe

Preliminary FY26 water and sewer assessments show large increases over FY25.

Brady said the town made inquiries into the high assessments from the MWRA and was told costs are high due to new meters, which were installed in 2022.

“The FY 2026 assessment should be the last year reflecting this additional impact and FY 2027’s sewer O&M assessments should return to ‘typical’ increases,” the town’s background information states.

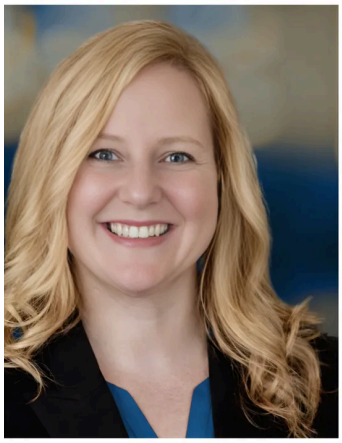
But town officials believe the water and sewer fund will continue to see “large revenue deficits in future years” because “revenues still are not keeping up with expenses and, therefore, there continues to be a reliance on retained earnings to balance the budget. Almost $900,000 in retained earnings was needed to balance FY 2025’s budget. With no rate action for FY 2026, FY 2026’s projected deficit is again over $900,000 and that does not include planned capital spending out of retained earnings.”

Town Meeting voted unanimously on the measure.

Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter.

Related

Subscribe



NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER
March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses

NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for rente

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis

Subscribe

as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

March 3, 2026

Latest

PROMOTING HEALTH & EMPOWERMENT
HEAR FROM HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS
LEARN THROUGH INTERACTIVE GAMES
MEET NEW PEOPLE
FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
Middle school & high school students, teachers, parents, friends, community members - come and bring a friend!
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
EMAIL OFFICE@NFSJ.ORG
CALL 781-729-7100
NETWORK for SOCIAL JUSTICE
FROM WINCHESTER AND CHELSEA
GIRL UP
WOMEN IN STEM
GIRLS GOTTA RUN
MIND & MATTER

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

Subscribe

FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

Subscribe

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe